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Origin
FE

ACTION: Embassy SAIGON

Intro

SS

From VN Coordinating Committee

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In light Amb Lodge's strong interest in possible political

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benefits which might accrue to GVN from a Vietnamese QTE G.I.

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Bill of Rights UNQTE, VN Coordinating Committee has discussed

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matter further. Following is summary of VN Coordinating

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Committee's discussion, which we forward for Mission Council

CIA

NSA

DOD

consideration:

There was general agreement that action should be taken to stimulate entrance of RVNAF personnel into Vietnamese universities if they qualify academically upon their release from military service. There was recognition that Vietnamese veterans could provide a constructive influence among often irresponsible younger students.

Further committee discussion developed additional idea that system of competitive scholarships for Vietnamese university study available to RVNAF officers and enlisted men could be beneficial politically. In this case RVNAF personnel who won scholarships before end of military tours could

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Clearances:

VN Coordinating Committee

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could complete studies and then return for remainder of their military service.

Committee discussion also brought out that GVN's recently announced improved benefits for RVNAF, including higher salaries, improved dependent housing, etc., should have direct positive effect on RVNAF morale. Idea was suggested that GVN could better publicize all existing benefits as package program designed to give recognition to military personnel and veterans for service to their country.

Committee also recognized, however, that number of RVNAF personnel, particularly enlisted personnel, who would be academically qualified to attend university would be very small and that QTE G.I. Bill of Rights UNQTE emphasizing availability of university education would therefore have little effect on large proportion military personnel. Committee also expressed concern that large scale QTE G.I. Bill of Rights UNQTE could overtax already heavily strained GVN administrative capabilities.


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